462 Besides the work in rice-fields, women dug and cleaned [503] canals and ditches, mounded land, and fished in many ways, the [226] most laborious of which was plunging a heavy basket into the mud to catch burrowing fish. In the household chores, in which men shared to some extent, they carried water, cut and fetched wood, tended livestock, cultivated kitchen gardens, [501] pounded rice in mortars, and cleaned houses. Boats were rowed by paddling or sculled by standing and pushing a single large [354] oar. Cooking was time consuming. The low stoves were on the ground or floor. Since there were no tables or chairs, one [352] squatted two to four hours a day to cut or pound ingredients, [516] stir the curry, or wash the dishes.

The training of boys and girls for farm and household 868 work was thorough and started early. By 18 years of age, 561 boys and girls with few exceptions were experienced in every 461 step of farming. Janlekha's chart (1955:82) indicates the progression (parenthetical additions are the present author's):

Age	Method	Kinds of farm work
5 - 7	not forced, but allowed or induced to work if they want to	light hauling, removal of weeds which have been turned over by harrowing
8 - 12	mild pressure	light hauling, removal of weeds which have been turned over by harrowing; some household work and help in the kitchen - girls only - (sometimes boys)
13 - 14	moderate pressure	hauling, weeding, buffalo-tending, transplanting, chicken-feeding, fishing, household work (boys and girls)
15 - 16	high pressure	all kinds of farm work, harrowing, harvesting, and uprooting - boys only - are started at this age.

872 Children worked in the fields before and after school
461 which, compulsory for all children aged eight to fourteen, was held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. five and one-half days a week. Vacations coincided with peak work seasons so children could help in the fields or at home.

7: Janlekha X-4,5 (1948-1953)p956 AO7 Central Thai AO7
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*243 seedlings; hauling heavy loads; fishing by throwing net
462 and by spearing; setting up and starting the windmill; starting the engine; simple carpentry work; most parts of house construction except the most technical parts like leveling and planning where the "professional" carpenters are often called in for advice; simple repairing of tools and equipment; guarding of the buffaloes and irrigation equipment left in the field when somebody must stay overnight at the temporary watch-house.

*243 In order to be competent for these various farm jobs,
861 the young were gradually trained, starting at a rather early
* 868 age of 5-7 years. At the beginning they were not forced, but allowed to participate in some simple farm work like light hauling and removal of weeds which have been turned over by harrowing. Mild pressure is applied when they grow older to the age of 8-12, and they are expected to participate in more complex and heavier jobs. More and more discipline is observed with the progress of the age of the young. The outline of training schedule which we have tried to reconstruct in collaboration with some elderly Bangchan informants is given below.

Age	Method	Kinds of Farm Work
5- 7	Not forced, but allowed or induced to work if they want to.	Light hauling, removal of weeds which have been turned over by harrowing.
8-12	Mild pressure.	Light hauling, removal of weeds which have been turned over by harrowing, some household work, and help in the kitchen (girls only).

7: Janlekha X-4,5 (1948-1953)p956 AO7 Central Thai AO7
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Age	Method	Kinds of Farm Work
13-14	Moderate pressure.	Hauling, weeding, buffalo tending, transplanting, chicken feeding, fishing, household work.
15-16	High pressure.	All kinds of farm work. Harrowing, harvesting, and uprooting (boys only) are started at this age.

By the time the young are 16 years old, they are already reliable farm hands, although they are still not considered competent enough to participate in the cooperative work to which only the best family workers are expected to be sent. By the time they reach 18 years of age, all males and females should be well trained in all kinds of farm work.

According to the Primary Education Law, parents are responsible for sending their children to school at the age of eight. These children are to remain in school until they are over fourteen years old, or until they have passed Pratom IV.[2] Since school hours start at nine and last until three in the afternoon, children of school age are still able to participate in the farm work before or after school hours. Moreover, most rural primary schools including the Bangchan Primary School have adjusted their vacation recesses to the periods when rice farm labor is needed most -- from August 16 to September 15 which coincides with transplanting period, and from December 16 to January 15 which coincides with harvesting period. It is during these vacations that the upperclass children are expected to contribute their

2. Primary education is divided into four academic years -- Pratom I, II, III, and IV.

7: Janlekha X-4,5 (1948-1953)p956 AO7 Central Thai AO7
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369 have an opportunity for secondary education although some
87 of them have adequate financial support. This has a tre-
[464] mendous effect on job opportunity for farm people, for most firms and Government departments set Matyom VIII as minimum standard for even the lowest clerical job.

*243 While farm children have a poor academic education,
369 they are compensated by a high degree of farm training which
464 includes not only the technique of rice growing but also the
868 use of basic equipment for manual labor and simple construction work. It has been observed that farmers are better qualified to do manual work than urban people. This aptitude, however, does not to any considerable extent minimize the farmer's disadvantage in making a living other than by farming. In the first place, compensation for manual work is generally lower than the pay for clerical jobs. Second, there are in the city more job opportunities for clerical work and other white-collar types than there are for manual work. Third, the white-collar jobs tend to be more or less permanent while the manual jobs tend to be somewhat seasonal, and the manual worker seldom has a "position" in the firm as does the white-collar worker.

To the extent that these three conditions remain true, it may be assumed that the type of academic education and practical training being given to Bangchan children will serve only to confine them to farming life rather than to give them opportunity for alternative occupations.